Pollution by Thermal Power Stations in the country

†2292. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Thermal Power Stations functioning in the country at present, along with those owned by the Central Government;

(b) the number of those affecting the environment adversely;

(c) the details of letters written by the Ministry of Environment in this regard to the Ministry of power during the last two years;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps so far to prevent the damage to environment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) There are 137 thermal power stations in the country having units of more than 20 MW size. Out of these, 29 thermal power stations are in Central Sector.

(b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have informed that 22 thermal power stations are adversely affecting the environment due to non-compliance of emission limits.

(c) to (e) The pollution control standards stipulated by Ministry of Environment & Forests are regularly monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards. Both the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Ministry of Power are regularly in touch with each other to ensure that power stations meet pollution control standards. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have also written to Ministry of Power in May, 2002 in this regard. In so far as NTPC power stations are concerned, all the emissions and discharges are within the prescribed standards. The CEA have been pursuing with the various power stations authorities to keep the pollution level within the prescribed standards by taking suitable measures such as adjustments of operating parameters and upkeep of pollution control equipments. The 10th Plan Renovation & Modernisation programme formulated by CEA includes the upgradation and installation of pollution and environment control equipments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.